

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the discussion below.

Applicants invention has been discussed in the previously filed Responses including the Response of March 7, 2003, August 11, 2003 and November 18, 2003 which are each incorporated herein by reference with the following comments addressed to the outstanding rejections.

Claims 4, 10, 14 and 16-19 have been objected to because of the informalities listed in item 7. Applicants have amended the appropriate claims to address each of these requirements.

Claims 2, 3, 8-10, 13, 17 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite with respect to the items indicated at item 9 on pages 5-7 of the Patent Office Action. In response to these rejections, Applicants have amended the appropriate claims to provide a proper antecedent basis and to eliminate any indefiniteness caused by previous language. Additional changes have been made in order to address items indicated in a further review of these claims.

Claims 8, 10, 12, 14-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by the reference to Ueda (previously of record). The statement of the rejection at item 11 indicates that this rejection is based on the best understanding of the claims in light of the above indefiniteness. Claims 1, 4, 12, 14 and 16 have been rejected as anticipated by Tanaka et al. (also of record).

In response to these rejections Applicants have, as indicated above provided clarifying amendments to eliminate the indefiniteness and to incorporate changes required or suggested by the Examiner.

Additionally, as a further clarification claims 1, 8, 16 and 19 now more clearly recite that the coolant cycle for cooling a heat generating vehicle component includes a first coolant cooler for cooling the internal combustion engine. This coolant cooler 9 is shown in the drawing and supported in the specification. Additionally, the above claims 1, 8, 16 and 19 recite that the exhaust gas/coolant heat exchanger is also connected downstream in series with the first coolant cooler of the internal combustion engine which is also shown in the drawings. The previously claimed gas/coolant heat exchanger 16 is connected downstream in series with the first coolant cooler 9.

Applicants submit that claims 1, 8, 16 and 19 define features not available from the previously discussed references to Ueda and Tanaka et al.

Aside from reiterating the distinguishing features between the claimed invention and the references as previously indicated in earlier Responses and in light of the clarification of the claim language to overcome the 35 U.S.C. 112, rejections and objections, Applicants have made the above discussed clarification to the language of each of the independent claims 1, 8, 16 and 19 in order to provide expeditiously allowance of this application which is respectfully requested. Additionally, withdrawn claims 5-7, 11, 15, 18 and 20 are also

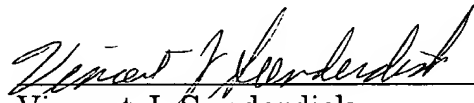
submitted as being allowable based upon their dependencies on independent claims 1, 8, 16 and 19.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #028983.49419US).

Respectfully submitted,

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